

## PRELIMINARY TRAVEL SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

- Jan. 2 (Sat.) Independent flights to Miami, FL, hotel check-in, group dinner.
- Jan. 3 (Sun.) Flight from Miami, FL, to Havana, Cuba. Arrival, hotel check-in, onsite orientation, welcome dinner.
- Jan. 4 (Mon.) Walking tour: Plaza de Armas, Plaza de San Francisco, Malecón Forts and port, cañonazo at La Cabaña. Discuss colonial Spanish defense policy and effects on people and landscape. Visit University of Havana for conversation with undergraduates. Visit Napoleon Museum.
- Jan. 5 (Tue.) Tour Plaza de la Revolución and visit tobacco factory; meet Ministry of Tourism officials. Visit colonial-architecture restoration school/workshops; discuss UNESCO World Heritage sites in Havana, foreign investment in restoration, effects on urban planning and housing.
- Jan. 6 (Wed.) Day trip to Cojímar and Ernest Hemingway's home. Discuss his relationship to the Revolution, his representations of Cuba and Cubans, current uses of Hemingway for tourism.
- Jan. 7 (Thu.) Depart Havana for Pinar del Rio. Visit Literacy Museum and house of José Fuster in Jaimanitas. Discuss revolutionary legacy tourism and role of art in the Revolution over time. Hotel check-in.
- Jan. 8 (Fri.) Visit tobacco farm and coffee plantation. Visit old spa town of San Diego de los Baños. Discuss legacy of plantations and slavery in Cuban development, export possibilities if US embargo is lifted, comparisons with 19th-century tourism in Saratoga Springs.
- Jan. 9 (Sat.) Visit beach, waterfalls, caves, and mogotes. Discuss eco- and nature tourism.
- Jan. 10 (Sun.) Depart Pinar del Rio for Cienaga de Zapata natural preserve and Bay of Pigs. Further discuss ecotourism if US embargo is lifted.
- Jan. 11 (Mon.) Tour sugar plantations in Matanzas. Return to Havana. Discuss sugar's decline in Cuban economy in favor of tourism.
- Jan. 12 (Tue.) Visit Afro-Cuban heritage sites and attend music performance in Regla. Visit organic farm, lunch with workers. Discuss travel writings we have studied and compare our own experiences of travel in Cuba. Farewell dinner.
- Jan. 13 (Wed.) Flight to Miami, FL.



# CUBA Travel Seminar

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### For details about costs and travel logistics:

Lisa Hobbs  
Off-Campus Study and Exchanges  
Starbuck Center, room 202  
518-580-5355  
lhobbs@skidmore.edu

### For details about course content and academic requirements:

Professor Jordana Dym  
History Department  
Filene Hall, room 109  
518-580-5272  
jdym@skidmore.edu

### For details about available financial aid:

Financial Aid Office  
Starbuck Center, room 101  
518-580-5750  
finaid@skidmore.edu

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C O L L E G E

CREATIVE THOUGHT TRAVELS

HISTORY THROUGH TRAVEL

# CUBA



2-credit, 200-level travel seminar (TX 200A)  
to Havana, Cuba  
January 2-13, 2016



# TRAVEL SEMINAR in Cuba

## WHY CUBA?

Since Christopher Columbus reached the Caribbean in 1492, Cuba has attracted many kinds of visitors—to explore, steal, learn about and criticize slavery, recover their health, draw, photograph, write novels, drink, gamble, or avoid prosecution. During their time on the island travelers interacted with residents, attended cultural and religious events, compared the food and climate to more familiar contexts, and contrasted city and countryside.

During this program, students will be based in Havana and visit sites that allow them to compare and engage perceptions of the islands and think about the role that travel and tourism play in contemporary Cuba. Some of today's tourists, wishing to understand a revolution that helped shape US-Latin American relations for over 50 years, are curious about endurance or brimming with solidarity. Others come for the excellent and affordable medical care, or the architecture, vintage cars, or music. As the US and Cuba seem to be moving toward renewing diplomatic ties that were severed two generations ago, testing the somewhat romantic notions about the island's past and present against lived realities will help students understand the island and its reputation.

What can one learn from travel to Cuba? From Ernest Hemingway's hideaway to the popular Malecon, we will follow on land and sea, on foot and by car, the journeys taken by Cubans and visitors. The seminar will ask students to actively learn as they visit sites and lead discussions, engage with participants in Cuba's tourism industries (such as business owners, site managers, and tour leaders), and build on concepts developed in the fall 2015 companion course "History of Latin America Through Travel" (HI 230). Students will be expected to present their findings in a documentary project in spring 2016.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Students will prepare for this seminar (TX 200A) by taking "History of Latin America Through Travel" (HI 230, Tu/Th 12:40–2pm), the 3-credit lecture and discussion course taught at both Skidmore and St. Lawrence University in the fall 2015 semester. While each class will have its own syllabus, several joint projects and activities will be co-taught by both travel seminar directors to prepare us for our time in Cuba. Professor Dym, in conjunction with OCSE, will schedule meetings in fall 2015 to discuss the academic expectations, logistics, and code of conduct for the travel seminar.

## FACULTY DIRECTORS

**Jordana Dym**, professor of history and interim Director of the Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative, teaches courses in Latin American history addressing the history of travel and travel writing, 20th-century war and peace, the history of cartography, public history, and documentary studies. Her scholarship includes books, articles, and a website. She engages students with texts, maps, and other sources, encouraging them to present findings in multiple ways, from papers to websites to exhibits—finding the right voice to make the case for why a particular topic should grab, and keep, our interest. Her favorite form of teaching is on site, connecting academic theory with experience and practice, including in Paris (2006), Puerto Rico (2008), and Guatemala (2014).

**Evelyn Jennings** has been teaching at St. Lawrence since 2002. In 2012 she became associate Dean for academic advising programs. She is an associate professor and holds the Margaret Vilas Chair in Latin American History. A colonial Cuba specialist with a focus on state enslavement and forced labor in Havana, she has traveled to Cuba several times. She has published numerous essays and articles on forced labor and Spanish colonialism and is working on a book about state enslavement in Havana in the 18th and 19th centuries. She teaches courses on colonial and modern Latin America, slavery and freedom in the Americas, travel writing as history, and Atlantic migrations.

## PROGRAM DATES

Sunday, January 3–Wednesday, January 13, 2016

## REQUIREMENTS

Students wishing to enroll in the "History Through Travel: Cuba" Travel Seminar (TX 200A) must also enroll in "History of Latin America Through Travel" (HI 230) offered in the fall 2015 semester.

## COSTS

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar is \$3,800 (subject to fluctuation). This includes Skidmore tuition, round-trip airfare between Miami and Cuba, ground transportation for program excursions, on-site accommodations (generally double occupancy), meals, international medical insurance, entrance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, faculty on site, and the support of OCSE. Transportation to and from Miami is not included; also not included are passport and personal expenses. **Financial aid is available for eligible students.**

## APPLY

Please apply by **Monday, April 6, 2015**. Application forms are at [skidmore.edu/ocse](http://skidmore.edu/ocse). At the time of application, all applicants must submit a \$250 deposit (100% refundable for applicants not accepted to the program), which will be applied to the program fee.

